



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**BLM** news  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BURNS DISTRICT 28910 HWY 20 WEST HINES, OR 97738 (541) 573-4400 [www.or.blm.gov/burns/](http://www.or.blm.gov/burns/)

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MEET IN BURNS**

The next Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) meeting is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, June 5-6, 2003, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day, in the conference room at the Burns District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon. The public is welcome to attend all portions of any SMAC meeting, and may contribute during public comment sessions scheduled at 11:00 a.m. each day. Those who address the SMAC during the public comment period are asked to provide a written statement of their presentation as well. Unless otherwise approved by the SMAC Chair, public comment periods will last no longer than 30 minutes, and each speaker may address the SMAC for a maximum of 5 minutes.

The agenda for Thursday morning brings Chairman, Designated Federal Official, and Andrew/Steens Resource Management Plan (RMP) updates followed by a discussion of the SMAC framework. The afternoon session will begin with information sharing on fence removal primarily within the No Livestock Grazing Area, while the remainder of the day will be devoted to discussing the Wilderness Management Plan.

Friday's session will open with a presentation on wilderness monitoring procedures, objectives, and priorities. The SMAC will discuss the proposed management actions for social and economic values outlined in the preliminary draft RMP before moving into public comment, and will then revisit the topic after lunch. The afternoon session will continue with discussion on a procedure for developing Cooperative Management Agreements, and will then close with a brief talk on Special Recreation Use Permits.

##### MORE #####

Throughout the course of the 2-day meeting, any other matters that may reasonably come before the SMAC may be discussed. If you would like a copy of the complete draft agenda, please visit our Web site at [www.or.blm.gov/Steens](http://www.or.blm.gov/Steens) and click on ADVISORY COUNCIL.

The Draft RMP will be available for public comment this fall. After the release of the RMP, the public will be provided a 90-day comment period. The BLM encourages all members of the public to submit comments during that period.

If you have information that you would like distributed to SMAC members, please send it to Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, no later than 10 days prior to the start of the meeting. If you send information or general correspondence to anyone at the Burns District Office and would like a courtesy copy given to the SMAC, please write “COPY TO SMAC” on the envelope and enclosed document(s).

Current SMAC members and their representative category of constituents are listed below:

Richard Benner - No Financial Interest  
Stacy Davies - Grazing Permittee  
Alice Elshoff - Environmental Representative-Local  
Michael Golden - Dispersed Recreation  
E. Ron Harding - Wild Horse Management  
Tom Harris, Chair - Mechanized or Consumptive Recreation  
Wanda Johnson - Burns Paiute Tribe  
Jason Miner - Fish and Recreational Fishing  
Jerry Sutherland, Vice Chair - Environmental Representative-State  
Hoyt Wilson - Grazing Permittee  
Cynthia Witzel - Recreation Permit Holder  
Harland Yriarte - Private Landowner  
Steve Purchase - State Government Liaison (nonvoting member)

The Designated Federal Official is Karla Bird, Andrews Resource Area Field Manager.

For further information on the SMAC or the upcoming meeting, contact Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office at 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon, or call (541) 573-4400, weekdays, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. You may also visit the Steens Web site at <http://www.or.blm.gov/Steens> .